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OHR/St/CS-U - Lehman, X-4555
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LIAISON 5-Y

Soviet press raises hostile charges against US operations

in the Antarctic: Operations under the US Navy are particularly singled out as evidence of US military interests in Antarctica.

Jim 25X1A9a
[redacted]
O/Ch/ [redacted]
has agreed to notify
when he sees a possible
need for JRA contribution to, or
review of, a CSS piece. This is
intended to balance out the CSS
tendency to forget JRA review
when there isn't time to hail Bg II.
The attached piece, however, was
initiated by [redacted] so that CSS
check-in with Ch/D was superfluous.
RPA
16 DEC 1958

Soviet press raises hostile charges against US operations in the Antarctic: A Soviet economist writing in Zvezda several months ago repeated the usual charges against US imperialism in the struggle for raw materials and strategic advantages, and laid heavy stress on military training and testing of equipment linking these to aggressive US designs in the Arctic. Operations under the US Navy are particularly singled out as evidence of US military interests in Antarctica. (Source: Activities in the Arctic and Antarctic FDB, No. 6, 1958, pp 16-19 UNCL)

Comment: Soviet political attitudes during their-IGY Antarctic operations have been marked by a friendly attitude among the scientists and generally in the Soviet press. The only exceptions have been two blasts in the Soviet International Affairs, No. 1, 1955 and No. 3, 1957. The first of these articles apparently was intended to point up the possible subversion of future US-IGY activities from scientific military purposes and

the second may have been a veiled warning ^{against} ~~against~~ attempts to freeze the USSR out of any international arrangements for Antarctica.

This latest attack, appearing as it does after President Eisenhower's invitation of 2 May 1958, to eleven nations, including the USSR, to organize an international conference on Antarctica, could also be a effort to define--in any treaty that may be evolved--"peaceful uses of Antarctica" as completely non-military. This would eliminate the US Navy as an operating naval force in Antarctica, and thereby embarrass the US because of its proposal that the "peaceful uses" provision be qualified to allow the use of military forces for logistical purposes in Antarctic operations.

The Soviets may be attempting to corner the US into a choice between insistence, at the forthcoming conference, on the right to allow the US Navy to continue in US post-IGY activities, the possible elimination of the Navy, which would weaken US Antarctic capabilities while reorganizing on a civilian basis

at the time of an expanding Soviet post-IGY program, or refusal to sign the treaty. The Soviet Union can point to the ostensibly civilian character of its Chief Directorate of the Northern Sea Route, the organization in charge of Soviet Antarctic operations, although it is known that military personnel have been associated with Soviet activities. (CONFIDENTIAL)

(Prepared by OHR)